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Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, in a world of qualified love it is so encouraging to hear the five wonderful words You greet us with as we begin this day: "I will always love you." We are amazed at all the territory that word "always" covers. It spans the full spectrum of all that we have ever done or said and extends to difficulties, problems, and even failures of the future. It also includes those times when we forget that You are the source of our strength and we take the glory that belongs to You. Amazing love. Your love keeps.

You come to us at the point of our needs, but You also help us come to the point about our needs. You encourage us to confess our hopes and hurts to You. You wait for us to ask for what You are ready to give. It's a mystery: Your willingness, coupled with our willingness to ask, make for dynamic prayer.

Thus, we commit the deliberations, debates, and decisions of this day to You. Bless the Senators with a profound sense of Your personal care so they can be Your agent of caring for our Nation, for one another, and their families. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, for the information of all Members, today the Senate will resume the IDEA bill under the agreement reached last

evening. Following closing remarks on the IDEA amendments, the Senate will begin a series of three rollcall votes, beginning at approximately 9:45 or 9:50 a.m. Senators should be prepared to be on the floor for these stacked votes beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Following the disposition of S. 717, there will be a short period of morning business after which the Senate will begin consideration of the partial-birth-abortion ban. The Senate may also consider the CFE treaty during today's session of the Senate. As always, Senators will be notified as to when any additional votes are scheduled.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 717, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 717) to amend the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, to reauthorize and make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Gregg amendment No. 241, to modify the provision relating to the authorization of appropriations for special education and related services to authorize specific amounts or appropriations.

Gorton amendment No. 243, to permit State and local educational agencies to establish uniform disciplinary policies.

Smith amendment No. 245, to require a court in making an award under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act to take into consideration the impact the granting of the award would have on the education of all children of State educational agencies and local educational agencies.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Under the previous order, the Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 241, WITHDRAWN

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to vitiate the yeas and nays and withdraw my amendment which is No. 241.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 241) was withdrawn.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, just to clarify the record on this, this amendment was addressing the issue of funding relative to special education which is, I believe, a critical element of the whole issue obviously of special education, especially the fact that the Federal Government has failed to live up to its obligation to fund 40 percent of the cost of special education. It is only funding approximately 7 to 8 percent of the cost.

After discussions with the majority leader, and with members of the Appropriations Committee on which I serve, I think there is a reasonable opportunity that we will receive the type of funding and support we need in order to start on the path toward reaching the 40 percent.

This path was outlined in S. 1, Senate bill 1, which is the Senate Republican position and which commits to having us fund 40 percent over a 7-year period. This year I am hopeful we can increase funding for special ed so we can get up above the \$4 billion mark in this account, which would allow us to—under the new bill, if it is passed, as I presume it will be—allow us to kick in the ability of the local communities to use some of this special ed funding which the Federal Government was supposed to be paying for, which presently is being paid for by local taxpayers, to use those local taxpayer dollars for other areas of education and to relieve some of the pressure on the communities and the local taxpayers.

So with that understanding, which is not formal—I appreciate that—but which I believe was made in good faith, I am withdrawing this amendment. I

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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